



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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A book about railways, *The Flying Horse*, by Henry Frith, which should be very interesting to boys of a mechanical turn, 3s. 6d.

Blue Jackets, 5s., by Manville Fenn, whose name is a sufficient guarantee that the book is after a boy's heart.

For girls we have:—*When we two parted*, by Sarah Doudney; a favourite writer with girls, 5s.

DEAR EDITOR,—In a new magazine which is at present selling largely at railway stations, there are papers for children I would like to call your attention to. A tale is commenced each month containing a mystery, and children are requested to find the solution and send it up to the Editress. The tale of this month is a most ghastly and horrible one, and that our children are ordered to turn such a mischievous and fearful tale over and over in their minds, and dwell on it, is pernicious and hurtful to their nerves and literary taste in the highest degree. A girl of 16 lives in a house with a forbidden room. There are stealthy turnings of the handle of her door in the dead of night; and once it slowly opens, and in the moonlight she saw her governess standing in the entrance gazing at her bed. She longs to open the door of the forbidden room. I will quote in full in the hope that some influence will be brought to bear on the Editress of the magazine, and that greater care will be taken in future to give our girls only that which is wholesome and elevating. . . . "Before I had time for further conjecture, a ghastly white light sprang into being, that terrible room was illuminated from floor to ceiling, and, pausing half dead with fright on the threshold, I saw swathed in white and seated at a table at the far end a form that was not that of my governess, or of anyone I had ever seen before. . . . Never to my dying day shall I forget the freezing stare of contempt with which it uttered in a clear stern voice these awful words: "Could you not leave me in peace for awhile? If you would escape my wrath, hasten hence speedily; remain, and your blood be on your own head." . . . As the being ceased its menacing utterance, I tottered back, pulling the door after me," etc. The tale may turn out very mild and innocent. The awful being may be an aged grand-parent or a father of the governess, and the narrative may end happily; but that it should stop here, and that children must brood over this gruesome drama for a whole month is, to say the least of it, pernicious. Feeling that we can show what is bad as well as what is beneficial in your pages, I venture to send you my opinion.

Yours truly,

MATER.

I forgot to say that the competition is open only to children under 15, and prizes of one guinea and half a guinea are offered for the best solution.

[We must postpone 'Pater Junior's' important letter about public questions, to make room for Christmas books.—ED.]

OUR WORK.

House of Education Naturalist Club. Notes by M. L. Hodgson.—This month, instead of my usual notes, I intend to give a short list of useful Natural History books suitable for our work, at the request of one of the members of our club—

The Out-door World, by W. Furneau, F.R.G.S., 7s. 6d. (Longmans, Green & Co.), with 16 coloured plates and over 500 illustrations. This book contains much useful information for collectors, giving good methods of collecting and preserving specimens of every kind, animal, vegetable and mineral. It forms a capital reference book for beginners, as everything is very clearly described, and the illustrations are excellent. Some of the chapters are brief, but they will be found most useful, especially those on preserving plants, fungi, mosses, etc. I should recommend all our members to procure this book, but at the same time I would warn them not to go in for indiscriminate collecting, because the book makes it seem so easy and delightful.

Workers without Wage, 2 vols., by Edith Carrington, 2s. 6d. each (Griffiths & Co.) These are both charming books, and we gladly recommend them to our teachers, they can only do good to all who study them, and the quality of mercy to all things is beautifully taught. I know you will all thoroughly appreciate the easy and pleasant manner in which they are written. They are especially useful in pointing out the use of the creatures described, in the economy of nature. One volume has already been adopted into our P.R. School; the second volume is quite as delightful as the one we some of us know very well.

The Industries of Animals, by Frédéric Houssay, 3s. 6d. (W. Scott, 24, Warwick Lane, Lane), with 44 illustrations. Here we have a vast amount of information on the marvellous doings of birds and beasts at home and abroad. This book contains the result of many years of careful study and observation, by our leading naturalists. It is difficult to give you any part of the book as being specially good, but I may mention that I am sure you will like the "Methods of Defence" and "Dwellings" very much indeed, and I strongly advise you to read this book at the first opportunity.

Out of Doors. J. G. Wood, 3s. 6d. (Longmans, Green and Co.) is another interesting book, it contains articles selected from various periodicals, on practical natural history, it is delightful reading and many curious facts may be learned from it.

I will now give a short list of useful books without any comment beyond saying that I have used them for a long time and always found them of great assistance.

Flowers of the Field, C. A. Johns, 7s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

Ponds and Ditches, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

Underground, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

The Woodlands, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

The Sea Shore, 2s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

Lessons from the Animal World (Little children), 4s. S.P.C.K.

Nature and Her Servants, J. G. Wood, 5s. S.P.C.K.

Our Insect Allies, Theodore Wood, 5s. S.P.C.K.

The Animal Creation, Thomas Rymer Jones, 488 wood cuts, 7s. 6d. S.P.C.K.

Common Objects of the Country, J. G. Wood, 3s. 6d. Routledge.

Common Shells of the Sea Shore, F. Warne and Co., 1s.

A Fern Book for Everybody " " 1s.

British Insects. Groombridge and Sons, 3s. 6d. ?

Fésole Club.—In order that members may take their opportunities of sketching animals when convenient, the subjects for the remaining months of the club year are now announced:—

For this month, December, the subject is "Cats."

For January, the subject will be "Dogs."

For February, in which, as the closing month of our year, members compete for a prize, the subject is left open, in order that each may do whatever is most convenient and suitable to his or her style or fancy. The competition drawings must be *bonâ fide* the member's own unaided work from nature, and sent in before the end of February, 1894.

Next year, if the club continues in existence, it is proposed to go through a course of Figures: in the first half of the year studying Figures in Landscape, and when the summer sketching season is over, going into more detailed study of the face, in order, by the end of next winter's course, to produce a portrait in water colour.

As to this month's subject—Cats; those members who have followed instructions upon texture, in the studies of feathers and woolly-bear caterpillars, will have little difficulty with the cat's fur. And those who have tried to get the true proportions of cows and horses will more easily master these simpler forms. They must remember that Pussy has a backbone and shoulders, but that she hides them under her fur cloak. If they remember that, they will represent her neither as a fuzzy caterpillar, nor as a skinned rabbit; but suggest the forms and proportions without parading the anatomy. Students who know Mme. Ronner's cat pictures will get hints for posing their models, and for treating the subject with breadth: most engravings of cats are too cut up, and the fur is usually drawn too like a superannuated tooth-brush. Keep it soft and strokable, and send it by the end of the month to W. G. Collingwood, Coniston Lake.

St. George of Merrie Englonde.—We have received some very interesting interpretations of the allegory. Una Theodora Chase, aged 14, of St. Minver Vicarage, Wadebridge, Cornwall, wins the prize, a beautiful copy of the whole of the *Faerie Queene*, as we might expect she would, considering her name. We wish "Una" well, and hope that many a perplexed and troubled soul will, in later days, be helped by her gentle guidance. She has indeed a name to live up to. Maud Blackwell, Pakyn Manor, Hurstpierpoint, aged 15, follows close with some original and real thought; and Løis Foot Egelund, Høvik, Christiania, Norway, aged 15, also deserves honourable mention for an earnest, thoughtful interpretation. We hope to give Mr. Ruskin's rendering of the allegory in next month's issue, possibly also the prize-version.

[Further notice of *Our Work* and a very interesting *P.R. Letter Bag* postponed till next month.—ED.]

P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Hampstead Branch.—October 25th, at Twyford House, King Henry's Road, Dr. Pidcock in the chair, R. Somervell, Esq., M.A., Assistant Master at Harrow, read a paper upon "Lessons before School, or How, and What, to teach a child as a preparation for School." Miss Eva Young, Miss Patteson and others took part in the discussion which followed.—November 24th, Mrs. Sophie Bryant, D.Sc., read a paper upon "Children's Books," Professor Sully in the chair. Fuller report for next issue. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Braidwood, 2, Grosvenor Gardens, Willesden Green, N.W.

Belgravia and Westminster Branch.—November 14th, a meeting was held at 21, Eccleston Square, by kind permission of Mrs. Markham. Mr. Howard Swan, who is the translator of M. Gouin's works, gave an address on the "Series Method of Learning Languages."—Training Lessons: Mr. Howard Swan is giving a course on "How to teach children Foreign Languages," on consecutive Wednesdays, beginning November 22nd, at 11.30 a.m., at 21, Eccleston Square. Fee for course, £1 1s. Apply to Hon. Secretary.—Mrs. Senior will give four lectures on "The Light thrown on the Biblical Narrative by Recent Discoveries in Egypt," at Holy Trinity Parish Room, Sloane Square, by kind permission of the Rev. R. Eyton, at 5 p.m., on Wednesdays, beginning Nov. 22nd. Tickets for course, 4s. Mrs. Senior has lectured on this subject at the British Museum. Apply to the Hon. Secretary.—Mr. Cooke, pupil of Mr. Ruskin, who is so well known as having worked out the "Natural Method" of teaching children to draw with brush and pencil, gives eight lessons in Drawing and Painting to children between the ages of six and twelve, on Mondays 2.30 p.m., at 52, Cadogan Place, by kind permission of Mrs. Macmillan. Fee £1 1s. for each child. Apply Hon. Secretary.—Natural History Club: An Exhibition of Natural History collections, made by members and by children taught by them, was held, November 14th, at the High School, Graham Street, Eaton Square. Hon. Sec., Lady Isabel Margesson, 63, St. George's road, London, N.W.

Woodford and Wanstead Branch.—Mr. Cooke was the speaker at our second meeting of the session on the 7th, the subject, "Inventive and Imitative Colouring for Children." After the paper a discussion took place as to inherited tendency or early training with regard to drawing and colour-blindness. Mr. Cooke held that education was of more importance than hereditary tendency. The next lecture will be December 6th, by Mrs. Spencer Curwen. Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Spedding Curwen, Bywell, Woodford, E.